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EXAMINER

PHAM, THIERRY L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/473,659

Applicant(s)

KIKUGAWA, MAKOTO

Examiner

Thierry L Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Regarding claim 1, Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a facsimile machine comprising of a memory unit for storing the document data, a transmitter and receiver for sending and receiving image data (also capable of transmitting and receiving passwords from user for document data retrieval), a printer for outputting document data, and a system control unit (as equivalent to managing unit as recited in claim 1). The facsimile machine also capable of verifying inputted password for retrieving and printing of document data; see col. 3, lines 17-33 for more details. Masuda does not disclose expressly the method and apparatus for issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved. Limsico teaches in order to increase the level of security of each user's account, it is generally suggested that the users change their passwords on a regular basis to prevent unauthorized access of confidential information, see col. 1, lines 54-58. Limsico further teaches a method of issuing a new or change password through the use of GUI (Users Interface Graphic) technique; see col. 2, lines 57-60. Once the password has been issued or changed, the transmitter as described above can be implement to transmit the new password to the managing unit (as equivalent to control unit) as described above by Masuda. Masuda and Limsico are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for secured access of information. At the time

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of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings per Limsico (that is, changing passwords on regular basis to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as it is equivalent to issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved as in claim 1) to the invention of Masuda. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as noted by Masuda, col. 3, lines 23-25. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Limsico with Masuda to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

2. Regarding claim 2, Masuda further discloses a retrieval request can be sent from either a local or network (remote) transmitter. Local user can input request for document data retrieval from control panel unit 12, and network user can input request for document data retrieval through network control unit 15 of Figure 1.

3. Regarding claim 3, Masuda also discloses a control panel for inputting request (including password) for retrieval of document data, and a display unit for display an appropriate messages.

4. Regarding claim 4, a receiver described in claim 1 essentially known to include a reader to read information extracted from images.

5. Regarding claims 5-6, a retrieval request and a password can be sent from the network control unit 15 of Figure 1, which connected to a public communication network; see col. 3, lines 44-48 for more details.

6. Regarding claims 7 and 9, it is known in the art that facsimile machine is to receive and transmit images.

7. Regarding claim 8, to print locally, a printer unit 16 is provided in Figure 1. To retrieve document data remotely, a facsimile machine is provided to transmit the retrieval document through network control unit 15.

8. Claims 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Regarding claim 10, Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a facsimile machine comprising of a memory unit for storing the document data, a transmitter and receiver for sending and receiving image data (also capable of transmitting and receiving passwords from user for document data retrieval), a printer for outputting document data. The facsimile machine also capable of verifying inputted password for retrieving and printing of document data; see col. 3, lines 17-33 for more details. Masuda does not disclose expressly the method and apparatus for issuing a new password and notifying users of password changed after document data has been retrieved. Limsico teaches in order to increase the level of security of each user's account, it is generally suggested that the users change their passwords on a regular basis to prevent unauthorized access of confidential information, see col. 1, lines 54-58. Limsico further teaches a method of issuing a new or changing password through the use of GUI (Users Interface Graphic) technique; see col. 2, lines 57-60. Once the password has been issued or changed, the transmitter, as described above can

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be implement to transmit the new password to the managing unit (as equivalent to control unit) as described above by Masuda. Limsico also teaches a method of notifying user that the password was changed successfully; see col. 11, lines 6-10, and Figure 5G. Masuda and Limsico are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for secured access of information. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings per Limsico (that is, changing passwords on regular basis to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as it is equivalent to issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved as recited in claim 10) to the invention of Masuda. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as noted by Masuda, col. 3, lines 23-25. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Limsico with Masuda to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

9. Regarding claim 11, Masuda further discloses a retrieval request can be from either local or network (remote). Local user can input request for document data retrieval from control panel unit 12, and network user can input request for document data retrieval through network control unit 15 of Figure 1. Masuda also discloses a display unit 26 in Figure 1 for displaying appropriate messages (include notification messages); see col. 3, lines 32-33.

10. Regarding claim 12, Masuda also discloses a control panel unit 12 for inputting request (including password) for retrieval of document data; see Figure 1 of Masuda for more details.

11. Regarding claim 13, a receiver described in claim 10 essentially known in the art at the time of invention to include a reader to read information extracted from images.

12. Regarding claims 14-16, a retrieval request (include a password) and notification of password changed can be sent and received through the network control unit 15 of Figure 1 of Masuda, which connected to a public communication network; see col. 3, lines 44-48 of Masuda for more details.

13. Regarding claim 17, it is known in the art that facsimile machine is to receive and transmit images.

14. Claims 18-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Regarding claim 18, Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a facsimile machine comprising of a memory unit for storing the document data, a transmitter and receiver for sending and receiving image data (also capable of transmitting and receiving passwords from user for document data retrieval), a printer for outputting document data, and a system control unit (as equivalent to managing unit as recited in claim 18). The facsimile machine also capable of verifying inputted password for retrieving and printing of document data; see col. 3, lines 17-33 for more details. Masuda does not disclose expressly the method and apparatus for issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved. Limsico teaches in order to increase the level of security of each user's account, it is generally suggested that the users change their passwords on a regular basis to prevent

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unauthorized access of confidential information, see col. 1, lines 54-58. Limsico further teaches a method of notifying user that the password was changed successfully; see col. 11, lines 6-10, and Figure 5G. Masuda and Limsico are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for secured access of information. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings per Limsico (that is, changing passwords on regular basis to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as it is equivalent to issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved as recited in claim 18) to the invention of Masuda. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as noted by Masuda, col. 3, lines 23-25. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Limsico with Masuda to obtain the invention as specified in claim 18.

15. Regarding claim 19, Masuda further discloses a retrieval request can be sent from either local or network (remote). Local user can input request for document data retrieval from control panel unit 12, and network user can input request for document data retrieval through network control unit 15 of Figure 1.

16. Regarding claim 20, Masuda also discloses a control panel for inputting request (including password) for retrieval of document data, and a display unit for display an appropriate messages.



17. Regarding claim 21, a receiver described in claim 1 essentially known in the art at the time of the invention to include a reader to read information extracted from images.

18. Regarding claims 22-23, a retrieval request and a password can be received from the network control unit 15 of Figure 1 of Masuda, which connected to a public communication network; see col. 3, lines 44-48 of Masuda for more details.

19. Regarding claim 24 & 26, it is known in the art that facsimile machine is to receive and transmit images.

20. Regarding claim 25, to print locally, a printer unit 16 is provided in Figure 1. To retrieve document data remotely, a facsimile machine is provided to transmit the retrieval document through network control unit 15.

21. Claims 27-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Regarding claim 27, Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a facsimile machine comprising of a memory unit for storing the document data, a transmitter and receiver for sending and receiving image data (also capable of transmitting and receiving passwords from user for document data retrieval), a printer for outputting document data. The facsimile machine also capable of verifying inputted password for retrieving and printing of document data; see col. 3, lines 17-33 for more details. Masuda does not disclose expressly the method and apparatus for issuing a new password and notifying users

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of password changed after the completion of the document data retrieval. Limsico teaches in order to increase the level of security of each user's account, it is generally suggested that the users change their passwords on a regular basis to prevent unauthorized access of confidential information, see col. 1, lines 54-58. Limsico further teaches a method of notifying user that the password was changed successfully; see col. 11, lines 6-10, and Figure 5G. Masuda and Limsico are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor for secured access of information. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings per Limsico (that is, changing passwords on regular basis to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as it is equivalent to issuing a new password after the document data has been retrieved as in claim 27) to the invention of Masuda. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to prevent unauthorized access to confidential information as noted by Masuda, col. 3, lines 23-25. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Limsico with Masuda to obtain the invention as specified in claim 27.

22. Regarding claim 28, Masuda further discloses a retrieval request can be from either local or network (remote). Local user can input request for document data retrieval from control panel unit 12, and network user can input request for document data retrieval through network control unit 15 of Figure 1. Masuda also discloses a display unit 26 in Figure 1 for displaying appropriate messages (include notification messages); see col. 3, lines 32-33.

23. Regarding claim 29, Masuda also discloses a control panel unit 12 for inputting request (including password) for retrieval of document data; see Figure 1 for more details.

24. Regarding claim 30, a receiver described in claim 27 essentially known to include a reader to read information extracted from images.

25. Regarding claims 31-33, a retrieval request (include a password) and notification of password changed can be sent and received through the network control unit 15 of Figure 1, which connected to a public communication network; see col. 3, lines 44-48 for more details.

26. Regarding claim 34, it is known in the art that facsimile machine is to receive and transmit images.

27. Claims 35-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a memory unit 14 that capable of storing computer program to be run by a computer of a processing unit for retrieving document data. Claims 35-43 recited the same limitations as in claims 27-34, therefore, are rejected as the same basis as for claims 27-34.

28. Claims 44-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6181440 to Masuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5793952 to Limsico. Figure 1 of Masuda discloses a memory unit 14 that capable of storing computer program to be run by a computer of a processing unit for retrieving document data. Claims 44-51 recited the same limitations as in claims 27-34, therefore, are rejected as the same basis as for claims 27-34.

*Conclusion*

29. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to secured network printing or document retrieval.

U.S. Patent No. 6313921 to Kadowaki.

U.S. Patent No. 6362893 to Francis et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6020981 to Ogiyama.

U.S. Patent No. 6348972 to Taniguchi et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6037640 to Motegi.

U.S. Patent No. 6396597 to Marshall.

U.S. Patent No. 5351136 to Wu et al.

U.S. Patent No. 5579126 to Otsuka.

30. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L Pham whose telephone number is (703) 305-1897. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K Moore can be reached on (703)308-7452. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-5397 for regular communications and (703)308-5397 for After Final communications.

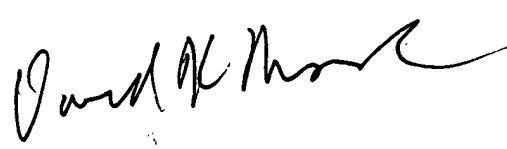
Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

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July 25, 2003

  
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